



NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

upon the

Health and Sanitary Conditions

of the

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1957



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1957

*To the Chairman and Members of the Norham and Islandshires
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1957 regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The estimated mid-year population continues to decrease, this time by 40, giving the smallest estimated population (4,220) for over 30 years. As far back as 1932 it was reported that the population was steadily dwindling, and this trend has continued with very few respites, e.g. in 1930 the population was 5,208, in 1940 it was 4,565, and in 1950, 4,590. This decrease appears to be principally due to migration, as in the majority of years there has been a natural increase in population, i.e., births exceeded deaths.

The birth rate (12.32 per 1,000 of the population) is below the national rate of 16.1, and, more pleasing the stillbirth rate (18.86 per 1,000 live and stillbirths) is below the national rate (22.5) although it was above last year's figure (nil).

The infant mortality (38.46 per 1,000 live births) was again high, and in excess of the rate for the country (23.7) but fortunately it was under the 1956 rate (108.7). This mortality rate fluctuates tremendously because of the relatively small number of births, and one infant death can increase the rate by about 20 or more. Nevertheless, taking the average over the last 10 years gives a very unfavourable picture. The causes of death are shown in Table 2.

The death rate (10.9 per 1,000 of the population) was below the national one of 11.5, and again the major portion of deaths was due to cancer and diseases of the heart and circulatory system. Eight deaths were due to cancer, representing 17 per cent. of all deaths, and 2 of these were due to cancer of the lung. Over the last 25 years the number of cancer deaths has not shown any significant change. This can be seen by reference to Table 3. Unfortunately, it was not possible to differentiate the types of cancer and thus ascertain any changes in the location of the disease. Diseases of the heart and circulatory system accounted for 28 deaths which is 60 per cent. of all deaths.

Measles was the major infectious disease during the period, a total of 67 cases being notified in contrast to 5 in the previous year. The only other infection to cause concern was influenza, which started towards the middle of September in the district and attacked, primarily, the children. Fortunately symptoms were not serious, and it was shown that it was due to an Asian strain of Influenza Virus "A." Tuberculosis infection remained quiet, with only one case recorded.

The poliomyelitis vaccination programme was continued with children in the 2-9 age group, and the demand by parents increased during the year. A total of 245 children received two inoculations of the vaccine from their own family doctors, and no reaction of any kind was reported to me.

In 1938 the urgent need for sewerage on Holy Island was stressed by the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report. This need was accentuated by the construction of the causeway in 1954 and the consequent rise in the number of visitors to the island. The Council has been very active in its endeavours to secure a sewerage scheme, and a public enquiry was held in November, 1956. At the enquiry an objection was lodged by the Northumberland Sea Fisheries Committee on the grounds of possible pollution to the mussel and winkle beds. This objection has delayed the scheme and increased the estimated cost by £13,000.

Camping on the Island also produced a problem, and in October, 1957, the Council wisely decided to prosecute the occupiers of an unlicensed caravan site under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The defendants pleaded guilty and gave an undertaking that the field would not be used again for camping purposes unless an application for a licence was submitted to and approved by the Rural District Council.

During the year, on your instructions, Mr. Senior and I carried out a survey of the schools in the rural district and presented a report in February, in which we stated that 9 of the 14 schools had privy pails or ash pits, and five had no separate convenience for the Staff. The number of wash hand basins in six of the schools was not adequate or not provided and only one of them had piped hot water. A copy of this report was forwarded to the County Director of Education.

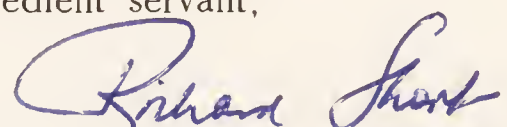
Some progress in slum clearance was made during the year and representation under the Housing Act was made in respect of 14 properties. Demolitions were confirmed in five cases, and seven undertakings accepted by the Council. In addition two new Council houses were constructed and two families from slum properties rehoused.

In conclusion I would like to record my appreciation of the help co-operation and interest I have received from the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and also to express my thanks to Mr. Senior, Surveyor/Public Health Inspector, and to the Clerk and his staff for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,


Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,475 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 2.

The rateable value is £30,517 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £118.

The estimated mid-year population is 4,220 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	19	29	48
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
Totals				20	32	52

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 12.32

Still Births :

Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Totals				1	—	1

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ... 18.86

Death rate of Infants under one year :

Legitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Totals				1	1	2

All infants (per 1,000 live births) ... 38.46

Legitimate infants (per 1,000 leg. live births) ... 20.83

Illegitimate Infants (per 1,000 illeg. live births) ... 250.00

Deaths from Measles ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough ... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea ... Nil

Deaths :

	Male	Female	Total
	20	26	46
Death rate per 1,000 of the population			10.90
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	8

TABLE 1

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	2	—	2
„ „ „ Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
„ „ „ Breast ...	—	2	2
„ „ „ Uterus ...	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	1	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	5	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	2	7
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	—	—	—
Other Heart Disease	3	5	8
Other Circulatory Disease	1	2	3
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	3	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	1	2	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—	—
All Other Accidents	—	—	—
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	1	1
	20	26	46

TABLE 2

INFANT MORTALITY

1957

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Inanition	6 days	Home
Prematurity	1 day	Dryburn Hospital, Durham.

TABLE 3

CANCER DEATHS, 1933-1957

Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total	Year	Total
1933	5	1938	7	1943	7	1948	8	1953	5
1934	9	1939	8	1944	5	1949	5	1954	5
1935	11	1940	10	1945	6	1950	6	1955	2
1936	6	1941	4	1946	5	1951	13	1956	9
1937	6	1942	11	1947	5	1952	7	1957	8

TABLE 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	67
Pneumonia	...	...	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—
Smallpox	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	—

TABLE 5

TUBERCULOSIS

Respiratory

Male	Age
1	50 years

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

1957

*To the Chairman and Members of Norham and Islandshires
Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1957.

Generally speaking the Villages within the District Council area are now adequately supplied with piped water from District Council mains, viz., Scremerston, East Ord, Norham, Horncliffe, Shoreswood and Shoresdean, Fenwick, Beal and Cornhill. It is expected that the consumption of water from the Fenwick Supply will increase as a few of the owners of neighbouring farms are considering implementing or replacing their own supplies from this scheme, which can cope successfully. Duddo Village is supplied from a private undertaking. The small Villages of Donaldson's Lodge and Harperidge are not adequately watered ; in fact the area east of Cornhill Village to the River Till is in a similar predicament.

There are two sewerage schemes in hand at the moment, namely, Holy Island and Cornhill. The commencement of the Holy Island scheme has been held up for major modification, but a start was made in November of this year on the Cornhill Scheme. Until these are completed the urgent need for better housing conditions for the inhabitants of these two Villages is severely restricted.

East Ord and Horncliffe Villages have also inadequate sewerage systems, especially at East Ord where untreated sewage discharges into a non-tidal stream.

Only three new houses were built during the year (two of these by the District Council) and it is thought that this is, in part, due to the tardy progress of the Cornhill and Holy Island sewerage schemes. However, I am pleased to report that twenty-eight houses were reconditioned during the year, helped by Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949.

For the past three years there has been a marked decrease in the Rodent population, and I am pleased to report no major infestations of rats during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

PART I

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSE OF PROVISIONS OF HEALTH

	Number on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	8	4	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	9	5	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	3	2	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total	20	11	—	—
	—	—	—	—

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

There is one small private Slaughter House in Norham Village.

				No. of Animals Slaughtered	No. of Carcases with Offal Inspected
Steers	...	...	...	132	104
Calves	...	...	...	—	—
Cows	...	...	...	—	—
Sheep and Lambs	...	...	...	180	135
Pigs	...	...	...	—	—
				—	—
Total	...	...	...	312	239
				—	—

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936 :

Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	...	54
Part Three. Nuisances	...	...	...	4
Part Four. Water Supplies	...	...	...	65
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	2

Housing Act, 1936 :

Part Two. Inspection of Insanitary Houses	115
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Housing Act, 1949 :

Part Two. Section 20. Improvement Grants—Visits in connection	42
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 :

Visits in connection with Infestation and Administration	...	11
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Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928 :

Visits in connection with storage of petrol	35
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Other Visits and Inspections :

1. Council Houses Repairs	194
2. Tradesmen re above	51
3. Building Byelaws	...	...	...	42
4. Town and Country Planning Act	...	...	...	43
5. Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	29
6. Meat and Food Inspection	52

Total Visits, Inspections, Interviews, etc.	...	<u>739</u>
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I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,


Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

52, Ravensdowne,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.

